

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CU-02 INR-05 PRS-01 L-02 CIAE-00

CPR-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /039 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:SPOLANSKY:BM

APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON

EUR - JAARMITAGE

EUR/P - MJERABEK

CU/EE - WJPRYCE

INR/RES - KAKERST (SUBS)

C - WSHINN

S/PRS - JTRATTNER

S/S-O: P. JOHNSON

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O 120228Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OEXC (SHELLEY, LOUISE), UR

SUBJECT: IREX EXCHANGE STUDENT LOUISE SHELLEY

REF: A) MOSCOW 7724 B) MOSCOW 7535 C) STATE 131929

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PROTEST NOTE WHICH EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO PRESENT TO MFA AND WHICH WOULD ALSO FORM BASIS OF LETTER TO DEPUTY MINISTER OF MHE.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WISHES TO
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DIRECT THE ATTENTION OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE CASE
OF MISS LOUISE SHELLEY, A JUNIOR SCHOLAR UNDER THE IREX
ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM, WHO WAS ASKED TO LEAVE THE

USSR AT THE BEHEST OF AN OFFICIAL OF THE MINISTRY OF
HIGHER EDUCATION.

THE EMBASSY PROTESTS THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE MINISTRY
OF HIGHER EDUCATION AS UNWARRANTED, UNSUBSTANTIATED,

AND CONTRARY TO THE PRINCIPLES AND SPIRIT OF THE
ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS.

MISS SHELLEY HAS CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT SHE ENGAGED
IN ANY ACTIONS INCOMPATIBLE WITH HER STATUS AS AN
IREX STUDENT. IN THE ABSENCE OF SUBSTANTIATING DETAILS
BY THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, THE EMBASSY CAN
ONLY CONCLUDE THAT THE ACTION AGAINST MISS SHELLEY IS
UNWARRANTED AND EXCESSIVE.

THE EMBASSY POINTS OUT THAT SUCH ACTS AS TAKEN BY THE
MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION ARE INCONSISTENT WITH ONE
OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM,
NAMELY TO ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE THE EXPANSION OF
MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE UNION OF SOVIET
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT UNLESS
THIS OBJECTIVE IS PURSUED, THE POSSIBILITIES FOR
ACHIEVING BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES
WILL BE DIMINISHED.

THE EMBASSY WISHES TO POINT OUT IN THIS REGARD THAT
SOVIET STUDENTS ON SIMILAR ACADEMIC EXCHANGES IN THE
UNITED STATES ARE NOT ENJOINED FROM ASSOCIATING WITH
INDIVIDUAL AMERICANS OR GROUPS OF AMERICANS, AND
FREELY ENGAGE IN THESE CONTACTS. IT THEREFORE REGARDS
THIS ACTION AGAINST ONE OF THE AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS IN
THE EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM AS A DEPARTURE FROM THE
PRINCIPLES AND SPIRIT THAT HAVE CHARACTERIZED OUR
EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES IN THE PAST AND WHICH THE EMBASSY
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BELIEVES MUST CHARACTERIZE THEM IN THE FUTURE. END
TEXT.

3. IN VIEW OF APPROACH WHICH POL COUNSELOR WILL MAKE TO
MFA ABOUT SHELLEY'S RETURN TO MOSCOW AS WIFE OF EMBASSY
OFFICER, DEPT. BELIEVES IT NOT IN OUR INTEREST TO
APPEAR TO BE CHALLENGING SOVIETS TO PRODUCE EVIDENCE TO
SUBSTANTIATE THEIR CHARGES AGAINST MISS SHELLEY. FOR
THIS REASON, WE MODIFIED THIRD PARAGRAPH OF EMBASSY'S
DRAFT NOTE. AT SAME TIME, EMBASSY MAY WISH AT ITS
DISCRETION TO MAKE POINT ORALLY THAT CUSTOMS TREATMENT OF
MISS SHELLEY UPON HER DEPARTURE WAS A NEEDLESS IRRITANT.

4. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE WE PLAN TO USE HERE ON

AN IF-ASKED BASIS:

Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT AN AMERICAN EXCHANGE STUDENT, MS. LOUISE SHELLEY, WAS EXPELLED RECENTLY FROM THE SOVIET UNION?

A. OUR MOSCOW EMBASSY WAS INFORMED BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES ON MAY 28 THAT MS. LOUISE SHELLEY, AN AMERICAN EXCHANGE STUDENT AT MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY, HAD BEEN "IN CONTACT WITH ANTI-SOVIET ELEMENTS", AND AS A CONSEQUENCE MS. SHELLEY WAS ASKED TO LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION.

OUR EMBASSY CONVEYED TO THE AUTHORITIES MS. SHELLEY'S DENIAL OF SOVIET CHARGES AND OUR PROTEST OVER THE SOVIET ACTION. MS. SHELLEY LEFT THE SOVIET UNION ON MAY 30, AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

MS. SHELLEY IS FROM NEW YORK CITY AND IS A GRADUATE STUDENT AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY WORKING ON A PHD IN SOCIOLOGY. SHE WAS ENROLLED AS A JUNIOR SCHOLAR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL LAW, FACULTY OF LAW, MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY UNDER THE ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM CONDUCTED UNDER THE US-USSR AGREEMENT ON CONTACTS, EXCHANGES AND COOPERATION. ACADEMIC EXCHANGES UNDER THIS AGREEMENT ARE CONDUCTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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RESEARCH AND EXCHANGES BOARD (IREX) OF NEW YORK CITY, WHICH IS SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES. DURING THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR, THERE ARE 50 SOVIET AND 50 AMERICAN JUNIOR SCHOLARS EXCHANGED UNDER THE IREX PROGRAM.

Q. DID THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES IDENTIFY THE "ANTI-SOVIET ELEMENTS"?

A. NO.

Q. IS THE DEPARTMENT PLANNING TO TAKE ANY ACTION ON THIS MATTER?

A. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PURSUE THE MATTER WITH THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES.

Q. HOW MANY AMERICAN STUDENTS HAVE BEEN EXPELLED FROM THE SOVIET UNION IN RECENT YEARS?

A. I DO NOT HAVE COMPLETE INFORMATION BUT WE BELIEVE THIS IS THE FIRST EXPULSION OF AN AMERICAN UNDER THE AGREEMENT SINCE 1971.

Q. HAS THE DEPARTMENT TAKEN ANY RECIPROCAL ACTION AGAINST SOVIET STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES?

A. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SOVIET GRADUATE STUDENTS UNDER THE EXCHANGES AGREEMENT COMPLETED THEIR STUDIES AND LEFT THE US IN EARLY JUNE.

Q. WE UNDERSTAND MS. SHELLEY PLANS TO MARRY AN EMBASSY OFFICER AND RETURN WITH HIM TO THE SOVIET UNION. DO YOU SEE ANY PROBLEMS?

A. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT MS. SHELLEY WILL MARRY AN EMBASSY OFFICER AND PLANS TO RETURN WITH HIM TO MOSCOW. WE SEE NO PROBLEM IN HER GOING TO THE USSR AS THE WIFE OF A US DIPLOMAT.

5. FYI IN DISCUSSING SHELLEY CASE WITH IREX OFFICIALS
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DURING JUNE 9-10 PLACEMENT TALKS IN NEW YORK, SEMYONEV ASSERTED HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT SPECIFIC ACTIONS BY SHELLEY HAD PROMPTED THE SOVIET ACTION, BUT HAD TO ASSUME THAT SOVIET SECURITY OFFICIALS HAD GOOD REASON TO COMPLAIN. HE SAID HE HAD ACTED ONLY AS TRANSMISSION BELT IN THE SITUATION AND HAD HANDLED MATTER IN A VERY INFORMAL WAY. HE EXPRESSED REGRET OVER INCIDENT (IMPLYING VAGUELY THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING TO BE REGRETTED ON EACH SIDE) AND HOPE THAT ITS EFFECT ON EXCHANGE PROGRAM WOULD BE MINIMAL. END FYI. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE137154
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/SOV:SPOLANSKY:BM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750204-0573
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197506101/baaaamkb.tel
Line Count: 201
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, OEXC, UR, US, (SHELLEY, LOUISE)
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006